

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF FISH INTRODUCTION PRIVATE POND APPLICATION

Name and address of applicant: Bruce E. Keaster
Box 223
Belt, MT 59412
(406) 277-3818

Is approval of private pond permit application recommended?

- Yes.

Location of pond:

County: Cascade

Legal description: T18N, R6E, S8 (NE ¼, SW ¼, NE ¼)

Name of the drainage where the pond would be located:

- The pond is located within an intermittent tributary of Box Elder Creek (Tributary of the Missouri River) near the headwaters of the drainage.

Does pond have legal water rights? (describe)

- Yes, see a copy of the water right deed attached to the application form. A copy of the water right document was forwarded to Andy Brummond, FWP's Water Right/ Streamflow Specialist, for approval. The water right matches the pond's location.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

- Rainbow trout are the only species Mr. Keaster is interested in stocking.

Is this species legally present in the drainage?

- Unknown but likely. Box Elder Creek is a direct tributary of the Missouri River below Cochrane Dam. The proposed species for stocking in this pond, Rainbow trout, are present in this stretch of the Missouri and Box Elder Creek.

Species of Special Concern present in the drainage:

- Unknown but unlikely.

RISKS:

Potential for impacts on genetic structure of existing fish populations:

None__Minor__XMajor__

- Rainbow trout currently inhabit portions of the Box Elder Creek, therefore it is unlikely that a fish plant of this magnitude will negatively impact the structure of the existing fish populations.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation?

None ☒ Minor ☐ Major ☐

- No other fish exist in the pond proposed for stocking.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction?

None ☐ Minor ☒ Major ☐

- Aquatic invertebrates and amphibians may be consumed accordingly.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location:

None ☐ Minor ☒ Major ☐

- A minor potential for reproduction does exist, but an appropriate spawning site is highly unlikely.

If necessary, would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?

- Yes, the pond proposed for licensing is only 0.83 surface acres and is no more than 10 ft deep.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?

- No.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action):

- Do not stock.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations, or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any:

- Species restrictions.

List any other agencies or individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction:

- None.

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction:

- Notification via State of Montana electronic bulletin board.

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required? YES/NO? If no, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed action:

- No. Impacts expected to be very minor.

EA prepared by: Adam Strainer

Date: 1/19/07

Comments will be accepted until:

Comments should be sent to: MDFW&P, 4600 Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls, MT 59405